

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 /140 R

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NEA - MR. SISCO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240821

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, XA

SUBJECT: AFRICAN "GOOD OFFICES" AND MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

1. WE HAVE LEARNED OF OFFERS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN SETTLING MID-EAST CONFLICT AND SUGGESTIONS OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS MADE BY VARIOUS AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE INCLUDING SENGHOR, TOLBERT, HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND THE EMPEROR. US APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO FAVOR NEGOTIATING FORUMS THAT PROVIDE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY FOR ARABS AND ISRAELIS TO ENGAGE IN DIRECT AND PRIVATE CONTACT, WITH MINIMUM OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR RESOLUTION OF ISSUES DIVIDING THEM. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO TURN WELL-INTENTIONED MEDIATORY OFFERS AWAY ABRUPTLY, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF WIDER PARTICIPATION AT PEACE CONFERENCE. IF THIS QUESTION ARISES, THEREFORE, POST SHOULD REPLY THAT WE ARE GUIDED BY PREFERENCES OF PARTIES THEMSELVES WHO HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS ACCEPT US-SOVIET AUSPICES. ADDING FURTHER PARTICIPANTS WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT TEND TO COMPLICATE NEGOTIATIONS AND MAKE REACHING OF

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ACCOMMODATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES MORE DIFFICULT. YOU MAY FOR-

WARD ANY PRECISE COMMENTS OR INFORMATION WHICH YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS MAY PROVIDE BUT YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO LEAVE EXPECTATION THAT US WOULD FAVOR ANY WIDER PARTICIPATION. YOU MAY ALSO MAKE POINT THAT WE FULLY RECOGNIZE VALID INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, AND FOR THIS REASON IT IS ENVISAGED THAT UNSYG OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE.

2. THIS GUIDANCE SHOULD BE USED NOT ONLY IN REPLYING TO OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE ALREADY RECEIVED BUT MAY BE DRAWN ON FOR REPLYING TO FUTURE OFFERS FROM OTHERS WHO WOULD HELP. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO REPORT ANY APPROACHES FROM YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT ON THIS LINE. RUSH

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